**COUNTRY RISK ASSESSMENT**

***With respect to:***

***Date of completion:***

In accordance with the University’s Code of Practice for Quality Assurance (Annex O – Approval and Quality Assurance for Collaborative Partnerships), Country Risk Assessments indicating a high risk are brought to the attention of Senate.

Please see scoring methodology at end of document.

**Questions 1 to 5 are based on the British Foreign, Development and Commonwealth Office’s (FCDO) Overseas Business Risk categories and relate either to external indices/sources or comment from the FCDO.**

1. **Ethical considerations - Political and economic**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 1. **BSCI Countries Risk Classification rating**   <https://www.amfori.org/sites/default/files/amfori-2020-11-12-Country-Risk-Classification-2021_0.pdf> |  |
| Average rating 81-100 | Low |
| Average rating 61-80 | Medium |
| Average rating 41- 60 | High |
| Average rating 21-40 | High |
| Average rating 0 - 20 | Very High |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.2 Comments from FCO on political stability of Host Country**  <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-business-risk>  <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> |  |
| Host Country not deemed volatile | Low |
| Certain regions in Host Country deemed volatile but neither national stability nor region in which partnership operates is affected | Medium |
| Pockets of volatility affecting region in which partnership operates | High |
| Host Country as a whole deemed volatile | High |
| Host Country as a whole deemed very volatile | Very High |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.3 Bribery and corruption as measured by Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International) score** <https://www.transparency.org/research/cpi/overview> |  |
| CPI 75-100 | Low |
| CPI 50-74 | Medium |
| CPI 25-49 | High |
| CPI 0-24 | Very High |

1. **Ethical considerations - Human Rights**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Human Freedom Index Score** [Freedom Index by Country 2021 (worldpopulationreview.com)](https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/freedom-index-by-country) |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 8-10 | Low |
| 6-7 | Medium |
| 5 | High |
| Below 5 | Very High |

**World Justice Project Rule of Law Index Score** <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/2021/>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Country not included in the Index | NA |
| 0.75-1 | Low |
| 0.5-0.74 | Medium |
| 0.3-0.49 | High |
| 0-0.29 | Very High |

**2.1 Reports of human right violations**

**With reference to the following sources:**

* [**Human Rights Watch**](https://www.hrw.org/)
* [**Amnesty International**](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/)
* [**Article 19**](https://www.article19.org/)
* **[US State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practice](https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No reports of violations of international human rights laws | Low |
| Reports of specific and not defined as ‘serious¹’ violations of international human rights law | Medium |
| Reports of serious violations of international human rights law | High |
| Reports of serious violations of international human rights law in a chaotic and lawless context | Very High |

¹Serious violations result in physical harm and/or false imprisonment

|  |
| --- |
| **Details of violations:**  *Include summary from Human Rights Watch website here* |

**2.2 Restrictions on Academic Freedom**

With reference to the following sources:

* [**Academic Freedom section in US State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practice**](https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/)
* [**Pen International**](https://pen-international.org/who-we-are/case-lists) **(Case lists)**
* [**Article 19**](https://www.article19.org/)
* [**Global Public Policy Institute/Scholars at Risk Free Universities report**](file:///Z:/International%20Partnerships/Exchanges,%20Relationships%20and%20Partnerships/Partnerships%20and%20Relationships/,PARTNERSHIPS%20PROCEDURES/DUE%20DILIGENCE_procedures/DUE%20DILIGENCE%20DOCUMENTS/%09https:/www.gppi.net/media/KinzelbachEtAl_2020_Free_Universities.pdf)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No restrictions on academic freedom | Low |
| Some restrictions on academic freedom | Medium |
| Wide ranging restrictions on academic freedom – including imprisonment | High |
| Wide ranging restrictions with severe outcomes / lack of due judicial processes – for example capital punishment | Very High |

|  |
| --- |
| **Details of restrictions:***including details of constitutional and legal protection for academic freedom* |

**2.3 Engagement with International Human Rights conventions** – [List of Core International Human Rights Instruments](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CoreInstruments.aspx)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Host Country signatory to all of the core Human Right Conventions | Low |
| Host Country signatory to most of the core Human Right Conventions | Medium |
| Host Country signatory to some of the core Human Rights Conventions | High |
| Host Country signatory to none of the core Human Rights Conventions | Very High |

**2.4 Outcome of United Nation’s** [**Universal Periodic Review**](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BasicFacts.aspx) **(UPR)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full engagement by Host Country with UPR recommendations | Low |
| Moderate engagement by Host Country with UPR recommendations | Medium |
| Limited engagement by Host Country with UPR recommendations | High |
| ‘Persistent non-cooperation’ | Very High |

|  |
| --- |
| **Details of level of engagement with UPR recommendations:** |

* 1. **Environment in context of UK’s protected characteristics, including access to education**

**With reference to the following sources:**

* [**Human Rights Watch**](https://www.hrw.org/)
* [**Amnesty International**](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/)
* [**United Nations – Gender Development Index**](http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-development-index-gdi) **and Gender Equality Index**
* **[US State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practice](https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Comprehensive equality and diversity laws protecting against harassment and discrimination | Low |
| Some equality and diversity laws protecting against harassment and discrimination | Medium |
| very few equality and diversity laws protecting against harassment and discrimination | High |
| No limited equality and diversity laws protecting against harassment and discrimination | Very High |

|  |
| --- |
| Details of host country’s stance towards protected characteristics:  **Age**  **Disability**  **Gender reassignment**  **Marriage and civil partnership**  **Pregnancy and maternity**  **Race**  **Sex**  **Sexual orientation**  **Further comment: access to education**  **Details of potential additional support and advice required for Kent students and staff (as applicable) travelling to country in relation to the above:** |

1. **Business Risk**

**3.1 Organised crime**

**With reference to:**

* [Comments within FCO Business Risk Report](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-business-risk)
* [Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime](http://globalinitiative.net/)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No warning of organised crime | Low |
| Warning of organised crime affecting specific sectors (not linked to proposed activity) | Medium |
| Warning of wide-spread organised crime including areas of proposed activity | High |
| No penalties enforced for organised crime/crime rife across country | Very High |
| Country not included on list | NA |

**3.2 UN Sanctions Risk Score** <https://sanctio.com/en>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| UN Sanctions with a Low Risk attributed | Low |
| UN Sanctions with a Medium Risk attributed | Medium |
| UN Sanctions with a High Risk attributed | High |
| UN Sanctions with an Extreme Risk attributed | Very High |
| Country not included on list | NA |

**Details:**

**3.3 Is the country on HM Treasury’s financial sanctions targets?** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-sanctions-list>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | High |
| Country not included on list | NA |

**Details:**

**3.4** Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) summary <https://country.eiu.com/All>

**Details:**

* 1. **Protective security advice**

**With reference to:**

* [Comments within FCO Business Risk Report](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-business-risk)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No warning of foreign business/interest as targets | Low |
| Warning of foreign business/interests as targets in specific (non-education) sector or general low-level targeting | Medium |
| Warning of widespread targeting of foreign business/interests including education sector | High |
| Warning of widespread targeting of foreign business/interests including education sector and no enforced penalties | Very High |

* 1. **Intellectual property**

**With reference to:**

* [Comments within FCO Business Risk Report](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-business-risk)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No comment on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) infringements | Low |
| Warning of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) infringements in specific (non-education) sectors | Medium |
| Warning of widespread Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) infringements | High |
| Warning of widespread Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) infringements with no enforced penalties | Very High |

1. **Health and Safety Risk**

**Question 4 is based on FCO Travel Advice categories**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **4.1 Travel safety advice from FCO** This section is subject to continual monitoring; it will be revisited if major incident occurs in Host Country/Region. This revision will be triggered by implementation of the University Emergency Plan. Furthermore, all individuals planning to travel overseas on University business must complete an individual travel risk assessment before travel, which includes checking and acting upon FCO travel advice. |  |
| No advice issued against travel in Host Country | Yes |
| Advice issued against travel in Host Country but not in/near region in which proposed partner is based |  |
| Advice issued against all travel and against all but essential travel in Host Country/Region |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**4.2 Terrorism threat**

**Likelihood of terrorism in Host Country according to FCDO**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Not likely/no reference | Low |
| Likely | Medium |
| Highly likely – frequency of attacks similar to UK | Medium |
| Highly likely – frequency of attacks greater than UK | High |
| Highly likely – terrorist groups in control of all/part of country or controlling authority in country is actively supporting terrorism | Very High |

**Details:**

* *Motivation for attack/s (political, sociological, ideological)*
* *Location of attack/s (Capital cities, other specific locations targeted)*
* *Nature of attack/s (firearms, explosives etc)*
* *Place of attack/s (education institutions, places of worship, government buildings, transportation hubs, entertainment venues etc)*
* *Specific targets of attack/s (police, army or government personnel, religious figures)*
* *Frequency of attack/s (estimated number per year)*

**4.3 Health threats - according to FCDO Travel Safety Advice** This section is subject to continual monitoring; it will be revisited if major incident occurs in Host Country/Region. This revision will be triggered by implementation of the University Emergency Plan. Furthermore, all individuals planning to travel overseas on University business must complete an individual travel risk assessment before travel, which includes checking and acting upon FCDO travel advice, and an individual health questionnaire.

Please note that health threats referred to below do not include those covered by compulsory and recommended vaccinations; individuals visiting Host Country for University business are required to inform themselves of required and advised health precautions before travel. Covid-19 rates and response are considered under Question 4.4

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No health threats reported | Low |
| Specific, localised health threat reported (not in direct area of proposed activity) | Medium |
| Specific, widespread health threat reported (not life threatening) | High |
| Serious (life threatening), widespread health threat reported | V.High |

**NB however Covid-19 rates below**

4.4. **Heath threats - Covid-19**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Covid-19 rates suggest virus is not widespread in community, i.e. case rates are below 100 in 100,000 | Low |
| Covid-19 rates suggest virus is still widespread in the community, i.e. case rates above 100 in 100,000 or rising quickly BUT no issues affecting hospital capacity or local capability to treat Covid | Medium |
| Covid-19 rates suggest virus is still widespread in the community, i.e. case rates above 100 in 100,000 or rising quickly AND there are issues affecting hospital capacity or local capability to treat COVID, i.e. local oxygen shortages. | High |

**4.5 Access to health care facilities – according to FCDO Travel Safety Advice**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full access to comprehensive health care facilities | Low |
| Access to comprehensive health care facilities but this is limited | Medium |
| Access to basic health care facilities | High |
| No access to basic health care facilities | V. High |

**4.6 Natural disasters according to FCDO** This section is subject to continual monitoring; it will be revisited if major incident occurs in Host Country/Region. This revision will be triggered by implementation of the University Emergency Plan. Furthermore, all individuals planning to travel overseas on University business must complete an individual travel risk assessment before travel, which includes checking and acting upon FCDO travel advice, and an individual health questionnaire.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| None | Low |
| Rare and/or localised | Medium |
| Frequent and/or widespread | High |

1. **Ease of operating within Host Country**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| **5.1 Language of Host Country** |  |
| English first language | Low |
| English second language | Low |
| Limited use of English | Medium |
| No use of English | Medium |
|  |  |
|  | | |
| **5.2. Familiarity of University with Host Country –** [based on the University’s institutional partnership agreements as recorded on International Links Database](https://sharepoint.kent.ac.uk/groups/internationalisation/Lists/International%20Links%20Master/AllItems.aspx) |  |
| Very familiar with a large number of existing partnerships/other institutional activity operating within the country | Low |
| Familiar with a limited number of existing partnerships/other institutional activity operating within the country | Low |
| Limited experience of Host Country | Medium |
| No experience of Host Country | Medium |
|  |  |
| **5.3. Openness to internationalisation of Host Country –** relating to national regulatory systems relevant to internationalisation and in-country support mechanisms |  |
| Very open to internationalisation with a large number of existing partnerships/other institutional activity operating within the country | Low |
| Open to internationalisation with a limited number of existing partnerships/other institutional activity operating within the country | Low |
| Restrictive regulations in relation to internationalisation | High |
| Closed to international collaboration | Very High |

**Scoring methodology**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Level of risk** | **Impact on University/University stakeholders** | **Examples of nature of risk for University/** **University stakeholders** |
| N/A | None | N/A |
| Low | Minor | No regulatory consequence  Minor travel disruption affecting ability of University students and staff to undertake activity linked to partnership  Minor reversible injury  Operating in country requires familiarisation of country context to be effective. |
| Medium | Moderate | Significant travel disruption affecting ability of University students and staff to undertake planned activity  Operating in country challenging due to language issues/lack of knowledge of country context  Local adverse publicity  Limited regulatory consequence  Major reversible injury  University students and staff unable to access full medical care  General discrimination and harassment arising from Protected Characteristics  Limited loss of University income as a result of IPR infringements |
| High | Major | negative headlines in national press  Significant threat to key business area  Significant regulatory consequence  Irreversible injury or death of students and staff  Imprisonment of University stakeholders  No access to Embassy services  Significant threat of violence/punishment (including violence/punishment relating to UK’s Protected Characteristics)  Significant loss of University income as a result of IPR infringements |
| Very high | Severe | Sustained negative headlines in national press  Irreversible injury or death of students and staff  Substantial regulatory consequence  Closure of key business area  Imprisonment of University stakeholders including without legal representation.  No access to Embassy services  Substantial threat of violence/ punishment (including violence/punishment relating to UK’s Protected Characteristics)  Kidnapping/extortion  Significant loss of University income as a result of IPR infringements |